

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, East Dereham U.D.C.

Contributors

East Dereham (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/c952ew2j>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

1958

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the


Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29181999>

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A.B. GUILD, MB., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.

Waterworks Superintendent

R.R. TYE

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1958

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Aldiss and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The estimated mid-year population for 1958 was 6,810, an increase of 20 over that of the preceding year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

89 live births, of which 3 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 68 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 13.07, was slightly lower than last year (14.43) and again much lower than the England and Wales rate of 16.4. The illegitimate live births accounted for 3.4% of the total live births.

There was 1 still birth giving a still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births) of 11.1; the England and Wales rate was 21.6.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index was 1.00.

The number of deaths, 68, as against 82 last year, gave a death rate of 9.98, whilst that for England and Wales was 11.7. The decrease in deaths this year was mainly due to a fall in the number of male deaths from coronary disease, angina, viz. from 10 to 1.

The deaths comparability factor was 0.88.

There was 1 infant death (legitimate) under 4 weeks of age giving an infant mortality and also neo-natal mortality rate of 11.2. The England and Wales rate was 22.5. The cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage.

No maternal deaths, occurred during the year.

Infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, were responsible for 4 deaths - influenza 2, pneumonia 2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Only 48 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year and their incidence is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	Notification rate per 1,000 population.	
					E.D.U.D.C.	E. & W.
Scarlet fever	3	4	38	2	.44	.68
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-		
Measles	33	273	1	119	4.85	5.80
Whooping cough	2	46	4	36	.29	.75
Pneumonia	8	17	18	5	1.17	.50
Polio-myelitis	-	2	-	1		
Dysentery	-	1	7	4		
Food poisoning	-	2	3	3		
Puerperal pyrexia	2	1	1	3		
Total	48	347	72	173		

Disease	Age Groups												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	6	4	5	8	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	4
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Total	1	6	5	5	8	10	5	2	1	1	-	-	4

The situation demands little comment but it is gratifying to note the absence of notifications for poliomyelitis, dysentery and food poisoning.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 4 cases were added to the register, one being an inward transfer. The comparative figures for the previous three years are :-

1957 - 4 1956 - 7 1955 - 6

This is the second year in which no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified.

The distribution of these four cases by age and sex is as over :-

Age PeriodPulmonary

M.	F.
-	1, (a)
1	-
-	1
1	2, (a).

(a) denotes an inward transfer.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Grand total</u>
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.57	20	15	35	2	4	6	41
31.12.58	20	12	32	2	3	5	37

No deaths were due to tuberculosis.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1958 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications.

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
112 (3)	0.29 (0.45)	33 (0)	0.085 (0)

Mortality figures for the same period were:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
23 (0)	0.06 (0)	4 (0)	0.01 (0)

B. C. G. Vaccination.

Owing to the priority given to polio vaccination no routine programme for B.C.G. vaccination could be carried out.

4 children were given B.C.G. vaccination and 35 final Heaf tests and 7 retests were performed.

Cancer of the Lung.

One death this year was due to this cause.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, brinchnus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	12
Coronary disease, angina	1	4	5
Other heart disease	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	1	1
	30	38	68

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (estimated mid-1958)	6,810
Rateable Value	£70,838
Estimated product of a penny rate	£275

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General :-

	East Dereham		England & Wales
	1958	1957	1958
	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	46	40	86
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	48	41	89
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.07	14.43	16.4

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Still birth rate per 1,000 of the total
live and still births

11.1 10.00 21.6

DEATHS (All ages)

30 38 68

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the
estimated resident population

9.98 12.08 11.7

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year)

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births

11.2 40.8 22.5

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by
general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

		<u>Diphtheria Alone</u>							Total
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14		
Primary	2	2	-	-	-	3	-	7	
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	16	31	47	
Total								<u>54.</u>	

		<u>Diphtheria & Whooping Cough</u>							
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total	
Primary	49	15	1	-	1	-	-	66	
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	<u>1</u>	
Total								67	

The introduction of the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, towards the end of the year, has now resulted in the almost general use of this prophylactic as the primary immunisation of infants. One infant was protected by this method and 3 infants under 1 year of age were given a full primary course against whooping cough.

In addition 6 children and adults were given a complete course of three injections against tetanus.

The demands of the polio vaccination campaign have necessarily meant that the diphtheria immunisation programme has fallen behind. It is no exaggeration to say that a child's first year of life has now become a very complicated affair.

VACCINATIONS

	Under 1	1-	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	51	3	8	9	7	78
Revaccination	-	-	1	2	8	11
	51	3	9	11	15	89

The slight increase in primary vaccination is very satisfactory.

POLIO VACCINATION

In 1958 those entitled to be given vaccination were children over 6 months and under 15 years of age, expectant mothers and certain other priority groups. The response to this has been very satisfactory and progress is now being made with the third injections of this group.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Health announced that the scheme would be extended to include the 15-25 years age group. The response of this age group has, up to date, been very disappointing. Although the Executive Committee have agreed that general practitioners will, in the main, be responsible for undertaking vaccination in this age group, I can see that this will be a very difficult task in a rural area.

The correspondence entailed in the polio vaccination scheme and the maintenance of the records have thrown a heavy strain on my small staff and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the willing way in which they have assisted.

Up to 31st December, 1958, a total of 3,613 had been given two injections as under:-

Born	Born	G.P's & E.M's	Total
1943 - 1958	1933 - 1942		
3478	7	128	3613

From the beginning of the campaign until the end of 1958, a total of 4,398 children born in the years 1943-1958 had received two injections - approximately 70%. In addition 1,693 third injections had been given.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	5	6	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	48	-	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Works Site Local Authority.	5	30	-	-
Total	56	84	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable of defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1958 was

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1) By the Council | nil |
| 2) By private enterprise | 16 |

The number of applicants on the list has again risen and stands at 217.

Closing orders were made on 3 houses bringing the total to 56.

Most of the Baxter Row area which had been acquired by the Council has now been cleared and plans for its redevelopment are in progress.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part 111.

Domestic Help Service

53 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 21 cases were assisted in East Derham.

Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

27 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 23 of these being voluntary and 1 dealt with under an Urgency Order (Sect. 20).

31 after care visits were made and 5 social history reports made to the mental hospital.

Mental Defectives

The following cases were visited and reported on periodically :-

Under statutory supervision	-	8 (2 visited by P.S.W.)
Under friendly supervision	-	6
Home teaching	-	1

Five children attend the weekly Occupation Centre at the Local Health Office.

Old People's Clubs

Two old people's clubs continue to function in the area with a combined membership of about 200.

Infant Welfare Centre

This is held twice a month and attendances have been satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of this Act.

6 aged persons were admitted to Part 111 accommodation on their own application.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Two samples of water taken from a shallow well were found to be unfit for drinking. A supply from a satisfactory well is being transported to the property.

A property on Etling Green which was being supplied from an unsatisfactory well has been connected to the mains supply.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Reviewing my reports over the last ten years it is satisfying to note that most of the improvements I have been urging are completed. There remains, however, the important and final addition detailed in stage 11 of the disposal works extension scheme which briefly includes an upward flow settlement tank, improved stormwater facilities and additional digestion tanks. I consider this work to be urgent and its completion should coincide with the increased flow from the Toftwood area which has recently been sewered.

The Toftwood sewer was completed in the last quarter of the year and within a few months seventy-one properties were connected to it which is a clear indication, by the residents, of the popularity of this improvement.

Night soil collection has continued satisfactorily throughout the year. A further reduction in expenditure on this service is contemplated within the next financial year as more properties are connected to the sewer.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been many complaints of untidiness on the part of the collectors, irregular collections and in the main comment was justified. Examining the facts, however, over three hundred houses have been erected in the town since the Council purchased a 12 cu.yd. collection vehicle eight years ago. The vehicle is becoming

mechanically unreliable and has broken down on a number of occasions throughout the year and further, its capacity is too small for the amount of refuse to be collected. Under these circumstances the refuse collectors were required to work so fast that they hurriedly emptied the bins into skips on private properties, probably spilling some, and irregularities in the collection were due to successive mechanical failures.

The Council are inspecting and testing larger demonstration vehicles and will no doubt decide to purchase a suitable vehicle in the next financial year.

Septic tanks were emptied free of charge twice in the year, and in very few cases was a third emptying necessary.

Routine street scavenging and highway gully emptying was satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district. A site for six caravans was approved during the year.

SMOKE NUISANCE

Of the two firms reported last year to be causing a smoke nuisance one has converted its boiler to oil fuel and the second changed its fuel resulting in a marked improvement.

I have in the past tended to relate the nuisance caused by smoke to its major source, industry, but an accumulation of heavy dark smoke from private houses can be equally detrimental to public health and the appearance of the district. Existing property owners should reduce their smoke, new properties required to install modern fuel appliances and the installation of such appliances should be insisted upon in the cases of applications for improvement grants. It is only by a combined effort on the part of industry and private property owners that a 'Smokeless Derham' can be achieved.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table summarises the inspections during the year :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Drainage	500	-	-
Factories, workshops & bakerhouses	66	3	-
Slaughterhouses & butchers shops	332	-	-

Food shops.	40	-	-
Cowsheds, dairies etc.	8	1	-
Restaurants & hotels.	10	-	-
Verminous & filthy premises.	-	-	-
Housing.	55	6	-
Nuisances.	24	-	-
Infectious diseases.	-	-	-
Rats and mice.	40	-	-
Refuse collection.	40	2	-
Nightsoil.	1	-	-
Water supply.	6	1	-

Eight informal notices were served during the year.

DISINFESTATION & DISINFECTION

No cases requiring disinfestation were reported.

Three houses were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

Four dealers' licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

Four dealers' licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations 1949.

One dealer's licence was issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations 1949.

One supplementary licence was issued for the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk in the district.

ICE CREAM

Nine samples were taken during the year, five of which were grade I and four grade II.

FOOD INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION

Food premises in the district continue to maintain a high standard of hygiene, and owners have readily agreed to carry out improvements suggested by the department.

Ten condemnation certificates were issued during the year covering

80 tins containing various types of food.

24 lbs of ham.

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat is inspected regularly at the slaughter house.

Conditions there are quite unsatisfactory according to modern slaughterhouse practice, nevertheless the standard of the meat produced remains high.

The Council gave every encouragement and assistance to a proposal which came before them during the year, by a private firm, to erect a slaughterhouse in the district but unfortunately it was not proceeded with.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
559	31	817	1602

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Inspected	559	31	817	1602

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	--	--	--	--
Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	57	--	6	--
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.2%	--	.73%	--

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	--	1	--	--
---------------------------	----	---	----	----

Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	28	-	-	-
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	5.01%	3.2%	-	-

REPORT OF THE MANAGER, WATER DEPARTMENT

WATER SUPPLY

The Council's waterworks provide a pure and adequate supply of water, rather hard, but otherwise excellent in quality. The water is obtained from two bores and before passing to the storage tank is filtered and chlorinated. No restrictions on its use took place during the year. The result of the chemical analysis is given as an appendix.

Total yearly consumption.	63,475,200
Increase on previous year.	1,947,600
Total yearly domestic water used.	46,877,200
Total yearly Industrial water used.	16,598,000
Total number of metered supplies.	130
Average daily consumption.	173,910
Average gallons per head per day.	19.6
Average gallons used by industry per day	45,504
Average daily pumping hours.	17
Estimated total population supplied.	6,530
Estimated total population not supplied.	280
Number of houses supplied with town water:-	
(a) Direct to houses.	1,400
(b) By means of standpipes.	200
Total estimated number of houses in Rural Area where mains are not available.	74
Total estimated number of houses in Toftwood, mains available but not connected.	33

New Connections and Mains Extensions

48 properties have been connected to the Town supply.

The 3" main at Quebec Road has been extended 474 yards so as to give an adequate supply at Quebec Hall and supply the development which is

still proceeding in this area.

630 yards of 3" asbestos cement water main has been installed on the George Borrow Estate and already 16 new connections have been connected to this main, polythene tubing being used for communication and supply pipes.

Number of samples taken :-

Bacteriological 11

Results in all samples "Highly satisfactory".

One chemical analysis was taken of the Town supply.

HEADWORKS

No additional plant or equipment has been added during the year. Storage above ground is only 130,000 gallons while the maximum daily consumption recorded to date was 237,000 gallons. Additional storage is urgently required. The yearly consumption has risen 9,093,400 gallons during the last ten years, while the levels of both bore-holes have steadily declined.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. Guild.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

PUBLIC ANALYSTS.

Cert. No. 188.K.

Lab. no. 7826/W.

1st December, 1958.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 19th November 1958. from E. Dereham U.D.C.

Marked Town supply via Tap in Waterworks Grounds.

Appearance when received Clear.

Nature of Deposit nil

Colour nil

Odour nil

Reaction neutral pH 7.8

Taste satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

<u>Ammoniacal nitrogen</u>	0.01	<u>Hardness as CaCo₃</u>	
<u>Albuminoid nitrogen</u>	0.02	<u>Total</u>	265
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	nil	<u>Carbonate (temporary)</u>	245
<u>Nitrite nitrogen</u>	nil	<u>Non-carbonate (permanent)</u>	20
<u>Chlorine as Chlorides</u>	34	<u>Alkalinity as CaCo₃</u>	245
<u>Oxygen absorbed</u>	0.26	<u>Free carbon dioxide</u>	10
		<u>Total solids</u>	360
		<u>Iron (total)</u>	0.1
		<u>Metals in solution other than iron -</u>	nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the analysis shows no sign of pollution. The total hardness approximates to 19° Clark, almost the whole of which is temporary. The reaction is just on the alkaline side of neutrality, and this water would not be expected to have any corrosive action on metals. A trace of iron is present, wholly in solution. Other metals were absent. In our opinion this water is well adapted for use as a public supply.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.

signed Eric W. Wood.

